

of examining them more minutely, as they were soon afterwards thrown away. It has hitherto been a matter of dispute among naturalists as to whether this extraordinary animal, the connecting-link between birds and mammals, produced living young or whether it laid eggs. It may now, however, be considered as a settled question. [Valeat quantum! E. N.]”

THOMAS SOUTHWELL.

Norwich,  
December 5, 1884.

*A Scorpion from the Silurian Formation of Sweden.*

By Dr. G. LINDBSTRÖM.

The remarkable discovery has been made of a fossil scorpion in the Upper Silurian (Ludlow) of the island of Gotland. The specimen is well preserved and shows clearly the delicate brown or yellowish-brown chitinous cuticle, compressed and wrinkled by the pressure of overlying beds; the cephalothorax, the abdomen with seven dorsal plates, and the tail composed of six segments, of which the last contracts and becomes pointed to form the poison-dart. The sculpture of the surface is exactly as in recent scorpions, and consists of tubercles and longitudinal ridges. One of the stigmata is visible on the right side, proving clearly that the animal respired air, as, indeed, its whole organization demonstrates that it lived upon dry land.

In this scorpion, named *Palærophonus nuncius* by MM. Torell and Lindström, we have therefore the most ancient known terrestrial animal; the dragon-flies, which hitherto claim the highest antiquity, having been found in the Devonian strata of Canada.

In the construction of this scorpion a very important feature is observable, furnished by the four pairs of thoracic legs, which are stout and pointed like those of the embryos of many other Tracheata, and of forms like *Campoplex*. This form of leg no longer exists in the fossil scorpions of the Carboniferous formation, in which those appendages resemble those of living scorpions.—*Comptes Rendus*, December 1, 1884, p. 984.

[Dr. Hinde has kindly informed us that, according to letters received by him from Dr. Lindström, a fossil scorpion was obtained last year by Dr. Hunter, of Carlisle, from the Upper Ludlow beds of Lesmahago, in Lanarkshire. The specimen was sent to Mr. B. N. Peach in Edinburgh, but owing to that gentleman's ill-health he was unable to do anything with it, until the receipt of a photograph from Dr. Lindström showed that the Scotch and Swedish specimens agreed so closely that they might well be referred to the same species, certainly to the same genus. Dr. Lindström's example shows the dorsal surface of the animal, Dr. Hunter's the ventral surface; the latter is a female, while the Swedish specimen is inferred to be probably a male.]